

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
COUTTS INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSING
OPERATIONAL PLAN
FILE 2022 - 111482
IO 749810**

2022-02-07

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[APG]

SITUATION

Background

As of Saturday January 29, 2022, an organized convoy was initiated in Lethbridge and it travelled onto Highway 4 to the Coutts border crossing. The convoy conducted a loop at the Coutts highway scales before blocking all north and south bound traffic. The protestors were comprised of mostly commercial vehicle operators mingled with a number of personal vehicles with a plan to attempt to block the North and South bound lanes at Coutts border crossing.

A GoFundme page and twitter account has been established to convey messaging throughout North America with supporters such as Donald Trump Jr. and Elan Musk.

The organizers have indicated the blockade will remain in place until the Canadian Federal Government removes all vaccination restrictions. Approximately 2500 trucks and supporters are expected to attend to multiple blockade sites.

As a result of the attention received by the protestors the RCMP planned for a deployment of 76 STO members. Additional resources from general duty and traffic service also responded.

During the days that followed there was a gradual increase of supporters and truckers involved in the convoy.

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022 an ACP was situated at highway 4 and highway 501 south of Milk River (recognized as Checkpoint 10). This check point has been able to filter trucks travelling to the border crossing and checking manifest.

There are currently twelve checkpoints that have been established by police to mitigate any convergence of vehicle or pedestrian traffic that would affect the flow of traffic. The checkpoints will also allow for Tac members and vehicles to travel an unimpeded route to the Coutts border crossing.

Organizers have indicated a route will remain open to allow the passing of livestock vehicles, emergency vehicles and border staff. A lane of traffic continues to be blocked both northbound and southbound. The full access of the highway has not been restored due to the protestors.

As of February 2, 2022 traffic through the international border has been resumed, however sporadic road blockades by protestors have continued to occur at Checkpoint 10 and the weigh station.

The Saloon situated at highway 4 and 1st Avenue North (a coffee shop) is supporting the truckers and has been utilized as the official staging and or headquarters for the protestors.

On February 7, 2022 E division tactical support group (TSG) members supplemented the K division members at Coutts International border crossing. TSG and STO have blended teams.

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On February 7, 2022 TSG and STO resources departed the Coutts International border at approximately 1800 hours. At approximately 2100 hours a farm tractor was noted stunting in the area. The members assigned to checkpoint 3 attempted to intervene when the farm tractor drove forward narrowly missing hitting police vehicles.

Shortly thereafter, additional farm tractors join in and blocked the highway at the Coutts International border crossing. This area remained blocked for approximately six hours and was unblocked about 0300 hours.

On February 8, 2020 TSG and STO resources returned to Coutts International border with staggered shifts to allow for two QRT team to remain on site till 0200 hours to allow for police presence.

TSG and STO will continue to maintain a presence at the Coutts International border crossing.

Current Situation

On February 8, 2022 at 1200 hours IBET confirmed that the following vehicles were parked at the following locations:

The Saloon has 6 Commercial vehicles, 13 RV's and 20 personal vehicles

The 'Site' on Hwy 4 Northbound – 19 Commercial vehicles and 5 farm tractors

The 'Site' on Hwy 4 Southbound – 20 commercial vehicles 1 personal vehicles and 5 tractors

Checkpoint 5 – 3 RV's, 32 personal vehicles one commercial vehicle

CP 10 – 105 personal vehicles, 21 commercial vehicles, 12 farm tractors and 43 RV's

CP 14 – Milk River 56 commercial vehicles

At approximately 1500 hours CCMG members attended to the area of the Saloon to speak with the protestors to advise GIS would be attending to view the farm tractors in the area for ongoing investigation in the incident that occurred last night.

GIS members were accompanied by a QRT team who will remain in that area to monitor the situation and the activities of the protestors. This will allow for officer presence to maintain visibility and assist in mitigating any further incidents.

On February 8, 2022 a public announcement will be made at 1700 hours based on the activities surrounding the protest. The initiatives announced may de-escalate the situation however, alternatively, depending on the messaging, this may also escalate the situation. TSG and STO will plan and react accordingly based upon the outcomes.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

Threat Assessment is currently at a low to medium risk. During the past week the protest group has grown in numbers.

During an initial confrontation with STO members a protester questioned the member on the attendance of Antifa supporters.

On February 7, 2022 a general duty member was approached by an unknown male that stated that he was Antifa and more would be coming. To date Intelligence analyst was not able to confirm any Antifa involvement at this time.

On February 7, 2022 a tractor narrowly missed hitting a police vehicle at checkpoint 3. This can be considered as a potential threat or act of violence against the police and an indication of escalating behaviors of some people.

Based on social media and news coverage along with the multiple other protests occurring worldwide. Any police action taken at this location must consider the ramifications this may have worldwide.

It can also be inferred that based on the media coverage received worldwide there is a high likelihood that other professional protestors may attend this location in efforts to escalate the situation. Threat assessment will be continually assessed.

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MISSION

To allow for lawful protest and freedom of speech

To prevent any injury or harm to general public, police or protestors

To maintain the critical infrastructure and operations at or near the Coutts Border Crossing

To protect all assets and personnel at the Coutts border crossing

To supplement policing operations in the town of Coutts and Milk River, AB.

To prevent any criminal activities as a result of the protest

To restore the flow of traffic on major highways

To Conduct any activities in accordance with lawful authorities, RCMP Policy, and the Incident Management Intervention Model

To supplement, reinforce and potentially rescue any personnel staffing the checkpoints

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EXECUTION

Checkpoints (twelve)

There are approximately 96 general duty members deployed to assist with traffic at each checkpoint.

These members have been strategically placed to prevent any blockades, allow for a flow of traffic to the border crossing, surrounding communities and allow for the tac members to deploy to the border unencumbered.

The uniformed members will be placed in marked police vehicles to allow for visibility and act as a deterrent. Each vehicle will have two members per vehicle.

Checkpoint 1	Twp road 20 and Highway 4	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 2	Twp road 14 and Highway 4	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 3	Twp road 12 and Highway 4	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 4	Twp road 11 and Highway 4	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 5	Highway 500	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 6	1 st Avenue and RR155	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 7	1 st Avenue N and Highway 4	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 8	Highway 500 and Highway 4	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 9	Highway 4 and Highway 501 E	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 10	Highway 4 and Highway 501	GD members and QRT
Checkpoint 13	501 W and Twp road 163	2 members (GD)
Checkpoint 14	Hwy 4 and Twp road 163	GD members and QRT

(see traffic management operational plan)

ERT

The K Division Emergency Response Team has been deployed to assist with, and monitor the situation should they be required. The ERT will provide lethal over watch to Tac Resources.

ERT consists of s.37

s.37

Should additional ERT members be required s.37

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Strategic Communications should be implemented to initiate external messaging to allow for the protestors and supporters to be informed on the position of the RCMP based on the lack of negotiations and the continued blockages and criminal activities that have occurred.

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TAC TROOP

A total of 76 members from K Division tac members were deployed on January 29, 2022 to the Coutts Border to assist with protest.

On February 7, 2022 a total of 50 members from E and K division were deployed to relieve the K division STO members at the Coutts Border crossing.

The 50 members deployed have been assigned to quick response duties. Each team consists of a team leader and six s.37 members with less lethal option. The teams will be deployed in s.37 but, will be able to transition quickly to s.37 if required. Should teams be required to transition to a s.37 option they will be required to return to the staging area in order to dress and deploy in s.37

s.37 option	blue uniform with baseball caps, duty belts, and soft body armour.
option	blue uniform with bump helmets duty belts, and soft body armour.
option	blue coveralls with riot gear (full padding with beast, riot helmets, shields and less lethal options)

The QRT will endeavor to maintain a low visibility to any of the protestors or convoys. The QRT will be dressed in appropriate s.37 gear and deploy with bump helmets if required. This will allow for quick response anywhere in the area should it be required.

Four QRT teams will consist of 8 tac members and two QRT teams will consist of 7 members.

The QRT teams will be responsible for assisting with the sites should they present a potential risk or emerging situation. The QRT will teams will not be manning any checkpoints however, will be in position to assist at any checkpoint or with any traffic related issues that may arise.

Two QRT teams have been deployed to the Milk River area to allow for a quick response if required. The remaining QRT teams will provide relief or quick response based on the day to day situation with the convoy or protests.

The TSG and STO Resources are alive to the requirement of a measured response in dealing with protest situations. The QRT teams will be in a position to change tactics, level of response or deployment adjustments at any time.

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[APG]

Scenario #1: Is based on the current situation as of February 7, 2022. The situation with the protestors has not escalated and two lanes of highway are still blocked by trucks however, there is a flow of traffic through the Coutts International border crossing.

Response

Maintain the current number of resources. Maintain the QRT teams to respond quickly and timely to any unfolding situation. This will be continually assessed to determine if tactics or teams need to be adjusted to the situation.

Considerations

This is being managed effectively at this time with minor adjustments to allow for potential night coverage due to a recent incident with a tractor almost hitting a police vehicle.

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[APG]

Scenario #2: This will be continuous effort to maintain dialogue and negotiations with leaders driving this protest. The Community Consultative Management Group (CCMG) has been requested to negotiate the current and ongoing situation with the organizers. To have them assist in restoring the highway to normal operations. A measured approach by the RCMP and a response to their actions will be relayed to the organizers. An explanation of their options will be relayed, which may have potential arrest to follow. This step will attempt to encourage any protestor or supporter to comprehend the ramifications of this situation and voluntarily vacate the area.

Response

This will be a collaborative response with CCMG and Tac members. CCMG members will initiate negotiations with a QRT team within the vicinity to intervene if required. CCMG members will relay the results to the Tac Commander should a QRT team be required to facilitate any arrests. The number of members deployed to this will be dependant on the number of arrests required.

The identified arrest team will be responsible for the arrest. General duty members will be assigned to process each prisoner. Once the prisoner has been processed they will be passed onto the Sherriff's for transport.

The two Sheriffs transport vehicles will be utilized to transport the protestors to Coaldale detachment or Cardston detachment.

Considerations

The current troop resources should be able to manage this however, if the number of arrest increases additional tac troop members and general duty members will be required to process all the prisoners.

The Sheriffs transport vehicles have a combined capacity of 20 prisoners. Should a requirement be necessary for more than 20 prisoners, there are two 50, person prisoner vans available in Calgary.

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[APG]

Scenario #3: After attempts to negotiate with the protesters they refuse to remove their vehicles and tractors from the highway. This situation would allow for limited traffic flow but, would not restore the highway to normal operations. This would not alleviate the attempt of additional trucks vehicles from attending the area in an attempt to fully block the highway.

Response

TSG and STO QRT teams will be deployed in s.37 with bump helmets to the Coutts International border. Two QRT teams, with a total of 12 members, will be responsible for clearing the north and south bound lanes.

The QRT will maintain containment on the highway to allow for the identity of vehicles that need to be seized. Four General duty members will be deployed with each QRT team to assist with tagging the seized vehicles.

At this point an assessment will be made to either allow for those that voluntarily wish to leave to do so, or if subsequent arrests are to be made.

Should arrests be made the identified arrest team will be responsible for the arrest of the protestors. A general duty member will be responsible for prisoner intake, paperwork and release documents for all the prisoners. Once processed the prisoner will be handed over to the Sheriff for transport.

Two QRT teams will be deployed to allow protection and oversight for those members required to effect arrest and seize vehicles. This will allow members to create a line, in advance of the members making the arrest, and allow for a buffer of protection.

Considerations

Strategic Communications both for external and internal messaging must be considered and planning ahead of this initiative as the outcomes will garner extensive media coverage. This step may also have further implications on other protest sites either Provincially, Nationally or even Globally.

The seizure of vehicles may incite or escalate issues with truckers and protestors.

Once the vehicles are seized and tagged containment of the area must be maintained with 24 hour police presence. (100 members)

The removal of seized vehicles will require a two truck or mechanical assistance to move the vehicles to a storage facility.

A dedicated secure storage facility will need to be identified with an option for the registered owners to retrieve their vehicles.

Police escort will be required during the movement of the seized vehicles. The numbers of police escort would be determined by the number of seized vehicles.

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[APG]

Arrest of potential protestors may incite others creating a mob mentality with violent acts towards police.

Should vehicles or persons be locked together to block the road ORT members would be required to manage the situation. This is timely and must be done during the day for safety reasons.

Additional Tac members will be required to successfully manage this option while maintaining public and police safety.

EMS will be staged to assist if required for police or protestor. TSG and STO have a dedicated medic imbedded to assist with immediate triage if required.

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[APG]

Scenario #4: Additional truckers and or tractors attend and effectively block the entire highway. This will prevent any traffic from flowing through the highway.

Response

Should this response be required, it will need to be a phased approach.

Phase I

This response should be actioned after the public announcement to be made on February 8, 2022

Strategic Communications should be engaged prior to action being implemented to ensure appropriate messaging is relayed to the media and internal partners.

CCMG should engage with the protestors situated along the highway to relay RCMP messaging with potential action that could follow.

Communications with CBSA to provide notification of potential closure of border due to police action that may result in a closure for multiple days.

Phase II

Deploy additional TSG and STO resources to Checkpoint ten to prevent a potential blockage by protestors at this point. This will require TSG and STO to maintain a presence at this checkpoint for 24 hours. The QRT will maintain security and to eventually restore normal operations for traffic flow once arrest and seized vehicles have been completed.

Phase III

Deploy resources to include TSG and STO to contain the vehicles that are currently blocking the highway. The number of resources required will be determined by how many vehicles are on the roadway. (100)

Two QRT teams (12) will be required to maintain a line at the Saloon to prevent anyone from now entering the designated crime scene.

Once the area has been contained and there is no threat of violence towards the police then a search team of six plus two general duty members can move in to search and seize the vehicles. Search teams should be made up of four search trained members and one general duty member.

Ten search teams would be required for a total of 40 members and ten general duty members. The search teams will be responsible for conducting the search of each vehicle. The general duty member will be responsible for tagging and completing the inventory sheets.

ERT will be required to provide lethal over watch for the members on containment.

QRT teams will be in s.37 with bump helmets, duty belts, and soft body armour.

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[APG]

At this point an assessment will be made to either allow for those that voluntarily wish to leave to do so, or if subsequent arrests are to be made.

Should arrests be made the identified arrest team will be responsible for the arrest of the protestors. A general duty member will be responsible for intake and all paperwork and release documents for all the prisoners. Once processed the prisoner will be handed over to the Sheriff for transport. This will require an additional 12 TSG /STO members.

EMS will be staged to assist if required for police or protestor. TSG and STO have a dedicated medic imbedded to assist with immediate triage if required.

Considerations

Strategic Communications both for external and internal messaging must be considered and planning ahead of this initiative as the outcomes will garner extensive media coverage. This step may also have further implications on other protest sites either Provincially, Nationally or even Globally.

This action will require additional members to execute this safely. An approximate number in total would in excess of 200 TSG and STO members.

This will require additional planning as well as a collaborative approach to include external agencies such as tow companies etc. to facilitate this approach effectively while maintaining safety for public and police.

The tactics to remove the vehicles from the highway will incite the public and may escalate into violent acts towards the police at the scene.

If vehicles are to be towed a fire truck should be on stand by to assist with the potential of chemicals spills which may be stored on the trucks or farm tractors.

Once the vehicles are seized and tagged containment of the area must be maintained with 24 hour police presence. (100 members)

The removal of seized vehicles will require a large tow truck or mechanical assistance to move the vehicles to a storage facility.

A dedicated secure storage facility will need to be identified with an option for the registered owners to retrieve their vehicles.

Police escort will be required during the movement of the seized vehicles. The numbers of police escort would be determined by the number of seized vehicles

Arrest of potential protestors may incite others creating a mob mentality with violent acts towards police.

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[APG]

Should vehicles or persons be locked together to block the road ORT members would be required to manage the situation. This is timely and must be done during the day for safety reason.

This may require an early start for Tac Resources (0400 hours) as well as night shift to maintain the area to prevent another blockade after the removal of vehicles.

Once the area has been cleared a night shift will be required to maintain the security of the area. This will be approximately 100 additional members.

EMS will be staged to assist if required for police or protestor. TSG and STO have a dedicated medic imbedded to assist with immediate triage if required.

This action may close down the border or a portion of the border for at least five days.

The resources requested for this action will be required for 7 to ten days.

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[APG]

Scenario #5: The situation with the protest has escalated with a complete shut down of the border and the Saloon is presenting an issue that requires immediate arrest of those individuals that have committed criminal acts.

In response the response plan would require the same steps on scenario #4 and no action on the Saloon.

Should both be required the response is listed below.

Response

Should this response be required this will be a phased approach.

Phase I

This response should be actioned after the public announcement to be made on February 8, 2022

Strategic Communications should be engaged prior to action be implemented to ensure appropriate messaging is relayed to the media and internal partners.

CCMG should engage with the protestors situated along the highway to relay RCMP messaging with potential action that could follow.

Communications with CBSA to provide notification of potential closure of border due to police action that may result in a closure for multiple day.

Phase II

Deploy additional TSG and STO resources to Checkpoint ten to ensure prevent a potential blockage by protestors at this point. This will require TSG and STO to maintain a presence at this checkpoint for 24 hours. The QRT will maintain security and eventually restore the normal flow of traffic once the arrest and seized vehicles have been completed.

Phase III

Deploy resources to include TSG and STO to contain the vehicles that are currently blocking the highway. The number of resource required will be determined by how many vehicles are on the roadway. (100)

Two QRT teams (12) will be required to maintain a line at the Saloon to prevent anyone from now entering the designated crime scene.

Once the area has been contained and there is no threat of violence towards the police then a search team of six plus two general duty members can move in to search and seize the vehicles. Search teams should be made up of four search trained members and one general duty member.

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ERT will be required to provide lethal over watch for the members on containment.

QRT teams will be in **s.37** with bump helmets.

At this point an assessment will be made to either allow for those that voluntarily wish to leave to do so or if subsequent arrests are required.

Should arrest be made the identified arrest team will be responsible for the arrest of the protestors. A general duty will be responsible for intake and all paperwork and release documents for all the prisoners. Once processed the prisoner will be handed over to the Sheriff for transport. This will require an additional of 12 TSG /STO members.

EMS will be staged to assist if required for police or protestor. TSG and STO have a dedicated medic imbedded to assist with immediate triage if required.

The Saloon that was contained will require entry by ERT members to ensure that it is clear and safe for members to enter.

General duty with the assistance of an arrest team will be responsible for arrest and intake of prisoners. Arrests will be completed by the TSG/STO arrest team and then passed on to the general duty to complete prisoner intake forms before handing the prisoner to the Sheriff's for transport to either Coaldale or Cardston detachment.

Considerations

Strategic Communications both for external and internal messaging must be considered and planning ahead of this initiative as the outcomes will garner extensive media coverage. This step may also have further implications on other protest sites either Provincially, Nationally or even Globally.

This action will require additional members to execute this safely. An approximate number in total would be in excess of 200 TSG and STO members.

This will require additional planning as well as a collaborative approach to include external agencies such as tow companies etc. to facilitate this approach effectively while maintaining safety for public and police.

Due to the complexity of dealing with vehicles, persons and a business dwelling place this response will require a planned approach which may include the assist of GIS and ERT.

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[APG]

The tactics to remove the vehicles from the highway will incite the public and may escalate into violent acts towards the police at the scene.

If vehicles are to be towed a fire truck should be on stand by to assist with the potential of chemicals spills which may be stored on the trucks.

Once the vehicles are seized and tagged containment of the area must be maintained with 24 hour police presence. (100 members)

The removal of seized vehicles will require a two truck or mechanical assistance to move the vehicles to a storage facility.

A dedicated secure storage facility will need to be identified with an option for the registered owners to retrieve their vehicles.

Police escort will be required during the movement of the seized vehicles. The numbers of police escort would be determined by the number of seized vehicles.

Arrest of potential protestors may incite others creating a mob mentality with violent acts towards police.

Should vehicles or persons be locked together to block the road ORT members would be required to manage the situation. This is timely and must be done during the day for safety reason.

This may require an early start for Tac Resources (0400 hours) as well as night shift to maintain the area to prevent another blockade after the removal of vehicles.

Once the area has been cleared a night shift will be required to maintain the security of the area. This will be approximately 100 additional members.

EMS will be staged to assist if required for police or protestor. TSG and STO have a dedicated medic imbedded to assist with immediate triage if required.

This action may close down the border or a portion of the border for at least five days.

The resources requested for this action will be required for 7 to ten days.

With the ability for protestors to hold up in a building there are several unknowns to consider including weapons and attacks on police.

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[APG]



Media should be onsite will police implement this action plan.

Night shift to secure the exterior perimeter of the scene to include a building along with additional roads and potential checkpoints

Early start for members to conduct a search by day when it provides better daylight and safety

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[APG]

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Tac Commander will be responsible for holding a briefing which will be held every morning at 0730 hours at the Fairfield Meeting Room. This will include any update from night shift to day shift.

Mobilization

Tac will be mobilized from the Fairfield for a 0800 hour departure daily to Coutts Border Crossing.

Logistics will be responsible for maintaining all vehicle related issues and address all deployment related logistics.

Debriefing

Tac Command group will be responsible for maintaining and conducting the debriefs after each shift.

Dress and Deportment

Tac Resources will be deployed in s.37 with bump helmets readily available. All Tac equipment will be staged should Tac resources be required to gear up into s.37

Staging Area

The designated staging area will be Coutts International Border Crossing in the garage for Tac Resources.

All administrative members assigned to this project will be staged in the CBSA administrative building.

Finances

All financial reports for overtime will need to be approved by your Team Leader and then forwarded to Tac Commander.

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[APG]

COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Bronze Command: Cpl. Martin Reed

Tac Commander: S/Sgt. Derek Westwick

Logistics E Div: Pete Wdowiak

Logistics K Div: S/Sgt. Rodney Koscielny

Scribe: Sgt. Karen Bach

All Tac members have been issued with a K Div Radio to be returned at the end of the deployment. Tac members will be operating on STO channel 01.

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MEMBER ROSTER

POSITION	NAME	NUMBER
Bronze Tac	Cpl. Martin Reed	Irrelevant
Tac Commander	S/Sgt. Derek Westwick	Irrelevant
Tac Advisor	Cpl. Gary Fedrau	Irrelevant
Scribe	Sgt. Karen Bach	
Logistics	Rod Koscielny	
	Pete Wdowiak	
	Dave Fogarty	
EGT	Sherrie Choo	
EGT	Shaun Ali	
QRT #1 TL	John Pike	
	Kyle Lees	
	Mike Heysa	
	Mark McGubbin	
	Kash Bains	
	Mark Levesque	
	Kevin Hess	
QRT #2 TL	Jeff Milliard	
	Pat Bodo	
	Dave Searle	

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[APG]

 ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA		
	Craig Beson	
	John Philips	
	Tom Flynn	
	Bryan Huang	
	Codi Mackay	
QRT #3 TL	Mike Courty	
	Kareem Cruteau	
	Dan Cocks	
	Rohel Williams	
	Steven Mckeddie	
	Jason Fichtner	
	Andrew Halliwall	
QRT #4 - TL	Darryl Remin	
	Nick Wyczynski	
	Richard Holdenried	
	Bill Lodewyk	
	Derek Rammingier	
	Grant Simpson	
	Perm Rai	
QRT #5 - TL	Adetutu Kouyami	
	Carmen Degroot	
	Terry Willard	

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 ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA		
	Jeff Mason	
	Monte Webb	
	Dustin Meilke	
	Kyle Camalush	
QRT #6 – TL	Ken Simpson	
	Keith Gaulton	
	Brett Little	
	Simon Seguin	
	Sharon Matharu	
	Trent Eresman	
	Vince Bixby	
EMRT	Colin Grant	
	Jeff Shanks	
	Jon Frankton	

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